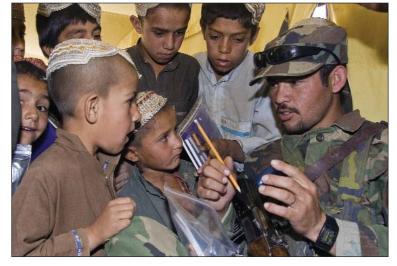


An Afghan National Army soldier distributes school supplies, donated by Americans, to the children at Zabul Province in southern Afghanistan in May 2006.

Photo by Estonian Capt. Taavi Tuisk



Cover: Army Sgt. Timothy Barry helps remove his "injured" battle buddy, Army Sgt. Ramona Sanchez, from harm's way during the combat lanes portion of a Combat Medic Advanced Skills Training course held June 4 on Bagram Airfield.

Photo by Army Pfc. Anna K. Perry 19th Public Affairs Detachment

### **Contents**

Page 3: Seatbelts save lives

Page 4: Troops extend help to Kapisa Province

Page 5: 'Afghan First' program hires first worker

Page 6: Afghan soldiers receive medical training

Page 8: Soldiers enhance lifesaving skills

Page 10: Catamount troops recognized for actions



Page 12: PRT medics assist nomads

Page 14: Korean, U.S. Soldiers provide assistance in Kapisa

Page 15: MOUT training enchances combat skills





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CFC-A Commander Lt. Gen. Karl W. Eikenberry Public Affairs Officer Col. Thomas Collins

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### Soldiers and seatbelts go together hand-in-hand

#### By Army Staff Sgt. Robert Kraus Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan safety NCO

Whether here in Afghanistan or back in the United States, there is a common theme - wear your seatbelt or suffer the consequences. The majority of severe injuries that occur during vehicle accidents and rollovers can be prevented by wearing seatbelts.

All of our driver training, safety briefs and convoy briefings reinforce that we are required to wear seat belts when driving or riding in government owned or leased vehicles. This is not optional, yet there are still service members not wearing seatbelts. Standards must be enforced to preserve our most valuable resource - our Warriors.

Most unfortunate is that some service members have returned home after having survived the hazards of a combat zone deployment, then die in motor vehicle accidents due to excessive speed and failure to wear their seatbelt.

Keep service members informed and keep them alive. Talk with your team about how following the tenets of "Drive

Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. John Cumpe



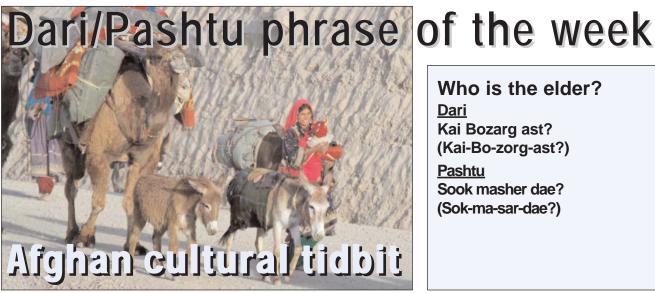
Photo by Army Pfc. Anna K. Perry

A Soldier buckles his seatbelt before a mission on Bagram Airfield. Whether deployed or at home, seatbelts save Soldier's lives.

to Arrive" and "Buckle Up" can save lives.

You cannot make up for lost time by speeding, no matter how fast you go, but you can be around to enjoy the time at home by slowing down and buckling up. Ask yourself if getting there a few minutes earlier is really worth the risk of not getting there at all.

Something as simple as buckling a seatbelt could be the difference between walking away from an accident, or being rolled away on a stretcher. If you don't want to buckle up for yourself, buckle up for your loved ones. They want to see you again, alive and well, so they can hug you and kiss you and be glad that you are home.



### Who is the elder?

Dari Kai Bozarg ast? (Kai-Bo-zorg-ast?)

**Pashtu** Sook masher dae? (Sok-ma-sar-dae?)

Nearly all of Afghanistan's nomads, the Kuchi, are Pashtuns or Baluch. Several tribes and clans spend the winters in the lowlands of eastern Afghanistan and migrate into the Central Highlands for summer grazing. The largest concentration of Kuchis is probably in the Registan, the sandy desert that covers a big area in southern Afghanistan.

## Troops extend help to Kapisa province

By Army Pfc. Anna K. Perry 19th Public Affairs Detachment

#### BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -

- Soldiers and Airmen visited Kapisa Province on May 27 and inspected construction equipment recently donated to the province.

The governor of Kapisa expressed a need for his own road equipment to give him the ability to connect his remote villages with market places and also to the provincial capital, said Army Sgt. 1st Class Richard Raymer, civil affairs noncommissioned officer in charge for Task Force Tiger. Raymer is assigned to the 219th Area Support Group.

The heavy equipment, purchased with Commander's Emergency Response Program funds, was delivered to Kapisa at the end of May.

"Today we brought some heavy equipment operators from the facility engineer team to inspect the road equipment package donated to the Kapisa province," Raymer said.

Airmen assigned to the 755th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron gave the equipment a passing grade after a thorough assessment.

"My job was to inspect the vehicles to insure they are up to the standards that the United States military would use," said Air Force Tech. Sgt. David Anderson, a heavy equipment operator assigned to the 755th



Photo by Army Pfc. Anna K. Perry

Army Sgt. 1st Class Richard Raymer checks a piece of construction equipment May 27 in the Kapisa Province as a local heavy equipment operator looks on.

ECES. "It is also to see that Kapisa is getting quality equipment that will be productive for their use."

With the newly approved equipment at their disposal, the people of Kapisa can now take reconstruction matters into their own hands.

"The governor of Kapisa doesn't want a hand out; he wants a hand up," Raymer added.

The citizens now have the ability to take charge of their own projects. Additionally, it frees up resources for other provincial reconstruction teams that don't have the community support Kapisa offers, Anderson said.

Raymer said he believes that the heavy equipment program will spread to, and benefit, other provinces throughout the country.

"This will help stabilize Afghanistan one province at a time. They are building their own infrastructure, self-esteem, and independence so they carry on and be a free nation without Taliban influence," Raymer added.

## Veterinary personnel inspect food for quality

By Army Spc.

James Tamez

19th Public Affairs Detachment
BAGRAM AIRFIELD,
Afghanistan Soldiers from

**Afghanistan** -- Soldiers from the 719th Medical Detachment, veterinary services, work hard daily to ensure the food entering the dining facilities is the highest quality.

"Our primary mission here is to inspect all the food that comes on base," said Sgt. Jessica Rose, food inspector, 719th MD. "Our main focus is the welfare of the Soldiers, but we also want to make sure the military gets its money's worth."

Rose conducts food inspections daily. She said they are responsible for the quality of every food and drink item coming into Bagram, whether it is from contractors or military owned.

"As a food inspector, I'm responsible for frozen, dried, canned and fresh foods that Soldiers are going to eat," said Pfc. Patrick Wiggins, 719th MD. "We inspect deliveries to

See FOOD Page 7



Army Sgt. Jessica Rose and Army Spc. Eric Vehara check the quality of a shipment of mushrooms on June 2.

## 'Afghan First' program hires first worker on Bagram

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael Rautio 10th Joint Logistics Command public affairs

#### BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -

- The first worker has been hired here to work for Task Force 10th Soldier Support Battalion as part of a program designed to help Afghans help each other.

The program, "Afghan First," seeks to hire Afghans with specialized skills to work with Coalition service members on installations throughout the country.

Afghanistan will benefit from these workers gaining valuable job experience, as well as the economic stability that the program will try to bring to the community, say coalition officials. A key facet to enhancing security in the region is to improve the local economy, enabling the people of Afghanistan to have confidence in their new future.

Coalition Forces will benefit from the local knowledge and expertise these new workers will bring, helping Coalition forces navigate the cultural and societal differences more effectively, they said.

Abdul Mobin will first have to complete a training and certification program. He will also be able to put the skills he learned at a Kabul currency exchange to good use on the vendor services team. His knowl-



Photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael Rautio

Army Lt. Col. Leo Impavido congratulates Abdul Mobin after presenting him with a framed contract. Mobin will work in the commercial vendor services section of the contracting office.

edge of automated currency transfers and local business customs will help the 10th SSB establish a successful Electronic Funds Transfer program at Bagram.

As a member of the 10th SSB, Abdul will help local vendors sign up for the EFT process. He will also assist local vendors in starting electronic payments and work with the Da Afghan Bank to ensure correct payments are disbursed.

The 10th SSB plans to hire other Af-

ghans to work along side Coalition Soldiers in the future, all part of helping the people of Afghanistan bring peace and stability to their country.

Since 2004, at Camp Eggers in Kabul, more than 70 contracts have been awarded to Afghan or Afghan American firms with more than 35 companies involved. Recent projects have included hiring workers for painting, paving sidewalks and construction of new quarters.

### **Enduring Voices**

### How would you improve quality of life for service members in theater?



Army Lt. Col. Jeff Adkins Bagram Airfield

"I'd like to see better housing."



Air Force Tech. Sgt. Steven Copeland Bagram Airfield

"More concerts and performances for service members."



Army Staff Sgt. Rebekah Sea Bagram Airfield

"More warm water in the showers."



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Paul Trotman Bagram Airfield

"More entertainment; something to do during down time."

### Afghan soldiers, police receive combat lifesaver training

By Army Sgt.
Michael J. Taylor

10th Joint Logistics Command
public affairs

#### JALALABAD AIRFIELD,

Afghanistan -- Members of the Afghan border police, Afghan National Army and Afghan security forces came together here recently to conduct a Combat Lifesaver course.

The course is designed to give participants the knowledge needed to give immediate aid to those injured on the battlefield. The course was led by Army Master Sgt Paul W. Eivins, Medical Operations noncommissioned officer for the 10th Joint Logistics Command, 10th Sustainment Brigade Troops Battalion, Fort Drum, N.Y.

The goal was for the troops to learn these skills and use them in tactical situations, said Eivins.

The combat lifesaver course is also designed to allow the participants to return to their units and train others.

"I am teaching them the tools



Photo by Army Master Sgt. Paul W. Eivins

Members of the Afghan security forces and border police get instructions on loading and unloading patients from a UH-60 Blackhawk Air Ambulance here. The students were taught basic combat lifesaving skill that will help them in the future during tactical situations.

needed to possibly save one of their buddy's lives in future operations," said Eivins.

Eivins taught them how to properly apply bandages, slings and tourniquets, treat for shock, administer intravenous solution, load and unload medical evacuation aircraft, ambulances and non-conventional platforms, submit nine-line MEDEVAC requests, and apply rescue breathing and CPR.

This course will pay off for them on the battlefield, said Eivins. "They're going to be able to save lives. These soldiers are so sharp that they pick up on this very fast. They love learning and love being soldiers."

Most of the material learned was very new to the border police, said Ahad Gul, a 1st Lieutenant with the ABP from the Ningrahar province.

"We are eager to learn more and take further steps towards becoming independent," he said.

Even with the obvious language barrier, the class excelled throughout the course.

"We have some really good interpreters and one of them is actually a doctor," said Eivins. "We do a lot of drawings and hands-on demonstrations. That also helps with the language barrier."

In an effort to see if the soldiers were retaining the information they were taught, Eivins asked some members of the first class to teach portions of the course to the second class.

"I was told that the first class and this class will now be the teachers and trainers for upcoming classes," Eivins said.

The CLS class is the beginning of something that will be standard for Afghan security forces, he said.

"I try to teach these men the right way of doing things because you never know when I may be side-by-side with one of them on the battlefield and something may happen to me," said Eivins. "I want to feel confident and comfortable with them working on me if something were to happen."



Photo by Army Sgt. Michael J. Taylor

Members of the Afghan border police and security forces watch closely as Sadar Muhammad demonstrates how to properly take a blood pressure reading on Army Master Sgt. Paul W. Eivins May 26. Interpreter Shabier explains things in English to Eivins as Muhammad explains it in Dari. Soon this class will have to teach every thing they've learned to their peers.

### Romanian Army helps local villagers during difficult times

By Army Sgt. Mayra Kennedy 345th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – 1st Company, 341st Infantry Battalion, better known as Task Force White Sharks, from Constantza, Romania, has established its presence in several villages in the Kandahar province since its arrival in December.

One of TF White Sharks priorities in Afghanistan includes a veterinarian and medical outreach, or VMO, program, which helps improve the living conditions of local Afghans. Among the villages benefiting from the Romanian sponsored medical visits are Molla Abdullah Kariz, Qazi Kariz and Kalantara Kila.

Romanian Lt. Col. Vasile Vreme, 341st commander, participates on VMOs regularly with his troops.

"We have a good relationship with the Afghan population," said Vreme. "Each village has welcomed us since our arrival. They are happy to get the help because they are very poor people and we are here to help them."

Khan Gollaliu, local tribal leader from the Molla Abdullah Kariz village, met in private with Vreme during a visit May 12. Gollaliu addressed health issues with Vreme. As a result, a local elderly man suffering from severe pain and headaches was treated by a Romanian doctor, Master Sgt. Valentin Dihoiu, from the 341st.

Romanian 2nd Lt. Remus Popa, a Constantza native, considers VMO operations essential to Coalition forces.

"We speak to the people when we go on VMOs," said Popa, as he watched children running about the village without shoes. "We talk to them to see if they have any



Photo by Army Sgt. Mayra Kennedy

Romanian Lt. Col. Vasile Vreme, TF White Shark commander, goes out with his troops on a medical outreach mission to Molla Abdullah Kariz and Qazi Kariz to support local villagers.

problems or needs." Popa noted that his troops give children they meet on the VMOs something, even if it is just a pen.

"When they get something, they get so happy," he said.

During a recent routine patrol to Khoshab village, Romanian Capt. Gherghe Gheorghe, chief of intelligence for the 341st, accompanied his team to assist the local villagers.

"Four kids came up to us and were pointing at the open field and on the ground there were two rockets just sitting there," said Gheorghe.

Gheorghe was astonished when he realized that these children had been playing in the area.

"We immediately called the explosive

ordnance disposal team in the area and they discover that the rocket was indeed old," said Gheorghe.

But that wasn't the end of the event. The next day, on another patrol to Khoshab, Gheorghe said children pointed in the same direction. The soldiers found another rocket; this one was recently planted and active, posing a big threat to the villagers. EOD, again, quickly responded to the call and detonated the rocket.

Since then, local villagers have welcomed the Romanian Army in their humanitarian efforts.

"There is nothing like the sense of a well done job and an accomplished mission," said Vreme. "The hope we have is to succeed in helping someone in need."

#### **FOOD from Page 4**

two dining facilities a day for quality assurance purposes."

Vets do more than just work with animals, or how important their jobs are, said Rose.

"People don't realize that as small as the vet core is, we have one of the most important jobs in the Army," Rose said. "We make sure everything a Soldier eats or drinks is wholesome. If we didn't have food inspectors, everybody would be standing in line daily getting MREs to eat. But we also inspect those to make sure the seals have not been tampered with."

Wiggins said his unit takes its job seriously because they are protecting Soldiers and they do that by making sure only the best food is available.

"I am very proud to be working with these vets," said Johnnie Banks, customer service manager, Supreme Food Services. "They are thoroughly versed in their jobs and their integrity is above reproach."

Banks said the vets inspect everything. When cases of fresh fruit and vegetables come in, the vets inspect the individual items in each case.

The vets have really great attitudes and are very upbeat, he added.

"The work load and the hours can be taxing, but we have fun and create a good atmosphere for everybody," Wiggins said. "It helps relieve the stress."



Photos by Army Pfo Anna K Borry

Army Pfc. William Barraza checks the area for enemy during a combat lanes portion of the Combat Medic Advanced Skills Training Course. He is assigned to the 14th Combat Support Hospital.

### 14th CSH prepares t

By Army Pfc. Anna K. Perry 19th Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** -- Simulated gunshots ring out and a Soldier falls to the ground. Two medics instantly run to the "injured" Soldier's side as other troops return fire and establish a 360 degree perimeter.

The scenario was part of the first Combat Medic Advanced Skills Training course which took place June 2-4 at the 14th Combat Support Hospital (Task Force Med) at Bagram Airfield.

The new CMAST program helps keep combat medics and licensed nurse practitioners military occupational specialty qualified. It's a transitional course for troops who did not receive the training in advanced individual training, and it also satisfies annual training requirements for others, said Army Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Cunningham, chief ward master of the 14th CSH.

"We're the first site ever in the

Operation I to be certi gram," Cun

The class of many of who bat situation alty care and ation.

Additional instruction the Geneva "This is a advanced a niques and new tourning medics need Cunningham

This class trauma lane dents to hor ulated comb

"A lot of of ian driven, be combat rela Sgt. Timoth



Four Soldiers carry a "wounded" battle buddy to

FEATURE June 12, 2006 Page 9

### troops for combat injuries

n Enduring Freedom theater ertified in the CMAST prounningham added.

ss covered a variety of topics, which revolved around comions like tactical combat casuand battlefield casualty evacu-

nally, the students received on on humanitarian law and eva Convention.

s also a way to reiterate I and basic lifesaving technd learn some things such as niquets and bandages that the need to be familiar with," nam said.

as wrapped up with a combat ane exercise allowing the stuhone their new skills in a simmbat environment.

of our training has been civili, but this is great because it is elated," said CMAST student othy Barry, 14th CSH. "It's especially realistic because we're training in an urban environment."

Cunningham said he believes the combat trauma lanes and classroom instruction was beneficial to everybody involved.

"As the battlefield changes, we must adapt to new techniques, tactics and procedures the enemy is using," said Cunningham. "We must overcome the injuries we're seeing."

The quicker the medics can identify and intervene with a life threatening injury, the quicker that Soldier can recover and get back in the fight, he added.

Cunningham said the goal of the 14th CSH is to continue keeping troops combat effective by keeping their medical staff highly trained.

"The CMAST class will be a monthly event," said Cunningham. "We're getting all of our Task Force Med folks squared away and then we'll give others the opportunity to come get validated."



Army Pfc. William Barraza calls in a nineline medical evacuation for an "injured" battle buddy during the combat lanes portion of a Combat Medic Advanced Skills Training course.



to safety on stretcher.



Army Sgt. Edward Gaulin and Army Pfc. William Barraza calm down an "injured" comrade, Army Sgt. George McGraw, during a combat lanes portion of a Combat Medic Advanced Skills Training course. All three Soldiers are assigned to the 14th Combat Support Hospital.

### Catamount troops in Lwara recognized for actions

By Marine Capt. Dave Huvane Task Force Spartan public affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE TILLMAN, Afghanistan -- The Soldiers of Task Force Catamount assigned here in Lwara received a visit May 27 from Lt. Gen. Karl Eikenberry, commanding general of Combined Forces Command -- Afghanistan.

Eikenberry toured Forward Operating Base Tillman and spoke with troops of the 2nd Brigade, 87th Infantry Regiment, in the barracks and the mess hall. Outside in formation, he called them a "band of warriors" and reminded them of their crucial role in the success of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"There's never been a military campaign that's been fought as brilliantly as you guys are fighting this campaign in Paktika Province," said Eikenberry. "You're making a huge, huge difference. You're out there operating in small groups, you're operating side-by-side with the Afghans, and when the enemy hits you, you hit him back 10 times harder. At the same time, you're delivering medical care and caring for the people of Afghanistan, helping them get their government up and running."

Eikenberry presented commander's coins to two Soldiers identified by Company A as deserving of recognition for actions above and beyond the call of duty. Both Spc. Jeremiah Bond and Spc. Timothy O'Donnell were honored by the ceremonial presentation.

"This inspired me and makes me feel really good," said O'Donnell, from Philadelphia, Pa.

He was recognized for taking quick action as a driver when his convoy took fire in a close-range night ambush on April 29. O'Donnell moved out of the kill zone to collect further guidance from unit leaders then maneuvered successfully on the enemy.

Bond, a mechanic from Leesville, La., was described by his company commander as a very valuable asset. Bond consistently ensured all vehicles were ready for patrols before accompanying those same patrols in order to conduct needed repairs



Photo by Army Spc. Leslie Angula

Army Lt. Gen. Karl Eikenberry, commanding general of Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan, speaks with Soldiers of A Company, 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, during a visit to Forward Operating Base Tillman on May 27. Eikenberry toured the base, located near the Pakistan border, before reminding Catamount's Company A of the crucial role they are playing in the success of Operation Enduring Freedom.

under difficult circumstances.

"His professionalism and can-do attitude have allowed for the completion of all combat operations," said Capt. Christopher S. Nunn, Company A commander.

Eikenberry, former commanding officer of 2-87 from 1990 to 1992 in Fort Drum, N.Y., told the formation it was honor to be in the field among Catamount Soldiers, who bear a proud history from World War II through the current war on terror. The general remarked that they continue to adapt to the changing needs of the mission in Afghanistan.

"The fight will keep on advancing, but the fight will increasingly be waged by the government of Afghanistan, so we continue to build the army of Afghanistan as well as their police force," Eikenberry said. "But they need our help, and that's a big operation for you."

The government will also have to build schools and roads, but it will take time, he said. Reminding the Soldiers the significance of their post, Eikenberry told them that training camps were once set up near Lwara in advance of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. Taliban and Al Qaeda forces have been pushed down, but remain on the battlefield, hoping for an opportunity to reclaim power.

"If we don't win this fight and we go home and the Afghans haven't built that ground to stand upon, the terrorists will come back again, and we'll be back here again, said Eikenberry. "We're still fighting a strategic enemy, and our homeland remains at strategic risk until we win right here at Camp Tillman, until we win right here in Paktika Province, until we win right here in Afghanistan."

Eikenberry said his greatest source of pride as a Soldier in the U.S. Army "is when I get up every morning and look in the mirror, and say that I've been given the honor of having the command of such a great group of warriors as you. Thank you for what you're doing."

## Veterinary team keeps working dogs healthy

By Army Spc. James Tamez 19th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -

- Soldiers of the 719th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services) work hard to ensure the Coalition's four legged compatriots on Bagram are healthy, happy and available to perform their necessary duties.

The vets also make sure the stray animal population, most which carry disease, stays in check.

"Our mission here is very important," said Lt. Col. Calvin Washington, 719th Medical Detachment commander. "We implement health controls for the military and contracting dogs by providing health-care for them. The 719th performs semi-annual examinations, kennel inspections and keeps dog's shots up to date."

"I make sure the kennel facilities are clean and safe for the handlers and the dogs," said Sgt. Holly Braun, 719th MD. "My responsibility is to make sure the kennels are up to par."

Braun said she loves animals and her job allows her to help care for many of the stray cats and dogs finding their way onto Bagram.

Braun said when they find stray animals, tests are conducted to make sure they are not carrying any diseases. The animals are then delivered to the humane society in Kabul.

"I love when we can save stray puppies



Photo by Army Spc. James Tamez

Army Sgt. Holly Braun checks a growth on the hip of Zargus on June 6. Braun, who is with the 719th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services) also conducts inspections on the kennels on Bagram to ensure the welfare of the dogs.

and kitties," Braun said. "We are able to give them a second chance at life."

The vets also spend time educating Soldiers on the risks involved in keeping pets and mascots, which is prohibited by a general order, Washington said.

"Rabies and other diseases are pandemic," he said. "In the two months I have been here, two animals were tested for rabies and both came back positive."

Braun said for troop readiness, including the working dogs, it is a big issue. "If military working dogs are sick, it is a security risk because they can't do their jobs," she said. "Some of the diseases the strays carry can also harm humans."

It can cause a significant loss in time of troop readiness, Washington said. Disease non-battle injuries have historically caused more down-time than actual combat. This is why the vets strive to keep all the animals over here healthy.

"We want to make sure they and their handlers can do their jobs," he said.



## PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

Army Capt. M. Todd Bell, 3rd Brigade Combat Team psychologist, examines Army 1st Lt. Weston Goring of Co. C, 710th Brigade Support Battalion, with a biofeedback machine on June 1 at the FOB Salerno mental health facility.

Photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael Pintagro Task Force Spartan public affairs

If you have high-quality photos of service members supporting the Coalition mission or enjoying well-deserved off-duty time, please e-mail them to freedomwatch@baf.afgn.army.mil. Please include full identification and caption information, including who is in the photo and what action is taking place.

### PRT medics make house call to nomads

By Air Force Capt. Joe Campbell Panshir Provincial Reconstruction Team public affairs

PANJSHIR PROVINCE, Afghanistan -- Medics, interpreters and support personnel from the Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team set up a short-notice medical outreach recently for the nomadic Kuchi people during their spring migration through the Panjshir Valley.

The Medical Civic Action Program provided treatment for Kuchi families as they move their sheep, goats, donkeys, camels and cattle to the high country. The Kuchi are Afghan Pashtun who migrate among the lowlands and highlands of Afghanistan and Pakistan each year.

"We've seen the Kuchi families on the road the last week or so as they move their herds North and we wanted to meet them and learn from them," said Air Force Lt. Col. Neal Kringel, Panjshir PRT commander.

Fletcher Burton, Panjshir PRT director, and Kringel met with Abdul Qadeer, the Panjshir Chief of Traffic Police, to discuss a coordinated meeting with the Kuchi.

"We brought the impromptu meeting idea to Qadeer and he quickly agreed we should do it," said Burton. "In fact, he led us out right then to meet some of the Kuchi who happened to be in the area."

The delegation met with a Kuchi family who were camped along the Panjshir River north of Bazarak. They received a warm



hoto by Air Force Tech. Sat. John Cumper

Maj. Kurt Workmaster, Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team physician assistant, checks a young Kuchi boy's eyes during an examination conducted as part of the Medical Civic Action Program on May 18.

welcome and learned more about the culture and history of the Kuchi people. In addition, Burton and Kringel discussed the mission and capabilities of the PRT.

"A few people had nagging medical issues, so we returned with our medics," said Kringel. "We need friends and allies all around and this was a chance to help people who are often left off to the side."

The medical needs ranged from a teenager with a recurring back injury, to a baby

with diarrhea and several adults with eye irritations.

"What began as a house call of sorts turned into a mini sick call," said Air Force Maj. Kurt Workmaster, Panjshir PRT physician assistant and reservist deployed from Duke Field at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. "We saw 10 patients ranging from an infant to the elders of the families."

This was the PRT's first MEDCAP since arriving in the valley earlier this month. The team learned a few lessons from this first event.

"Our current bags are set up for mass trauma situations," said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Charles Campbell, deployed from Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. He is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Panjshir PRT medics. "We need to set up a bag geared more toward family medicine versus emergency medicine."

The multi-service PRT includes various military specialties from Army Civil Affairs Soldiers to Air Force security, services and transportation specialists. The team's mission is to help extend the authority of the Afghan government through regional reconstruction, security and stability through projects and outreach programs.



Photo by Shahla Hammond

The Kuchi are Afghan Pashtun who migrate among the lowlands and highlands of Afghanistan and Pakistan each year.

### Khowst governor, PRT collaborate on educational efforts

By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jamie D. Hamil

Khowst Provincial Reconstruction Team

FORWARD OPERATING BASE CHAPMAN, Afghanistan -- Spend five minutes with Khowst Governor Marijadeen Patan and he'll make it clear that education is a top priority for his province.

"Education is like oxygen, you can't live without it – our nation cannot exist without it," he said.

Patan and Mohammad Shareef Zadran, Province Director of Education, are aggressively pushing an education agenda to support the goals of the Afghanistan Compact and Interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy.

Specifically, they are working to increase enrollment in primary schools for both girls and boys, and to enhance skills for educators.

Their work is paying off. Over the last year, 34,000 students have started school, more than 11,000 of them girls. Additionally, the director has coordinated with the U.S. Agency for International Development for teacher training and workshops in all districts.

Although progress has been made, more work needs to be done. The most pressing challenge is the number of schools.

According to the director of education, 106 additional schools are needed to support the number of students in the province. Because of the shortage, many of the students are forced to take their classes outside, or if lucky, under a tent. The director is working with the Ministry of Education in Kabul and numerous international aid organizations to identify resources to fund more buildings. In the interim, he has turned to the

"Education is like oxygen, you can't live without it - our nation cannot exist without it."

Khowst Governor Marijadeen Patan



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jamie D. Hamill

Students at Mando Zayi District School show their appreciation for Provincial Reconstruction Team efforts during a visit May 23. Khowst governor and the director of education are pushing an education agenda to support the goals of the Afghanistan Compact and Interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy.

Khowst Provincial Reconstruction Team for assistance.

Navy Cdr. John Wade, Khowst PRT commander, said his organization wants to help.

"I'm inspired talking with the governor and director of education," said Wade, from Long Island, N.Y. "They value education and believe that Afghanistan's future is dependent on the quality of education the children receive."

Unfortunately finding the money to build the needed schools will take time. Wade said he asked how they could help and was told if they could provide temporary shelters or tents, it would reduce the number of children exposed to the hot sun or rain.

More than 100 large tents will be purchased in the coming weeks and distributed to schools throughout the province, said Wade.

Additionally, the PRT has visited several schools and provided much-needed books and supplies. Recently, members of the PRT visited the Mando Zayi District School. The school was built by the PRT two years ago, and they visit

occasionally to make sure the school has what it needs to educate its 7,000 students.

As the team members got out of their vehicles, smiling children watched intently through the school windows. They passed out more than 100 notebooks, 500 pens and pencils, and three volleyballs, all donated by students from Renbrook Elementary School in West Hartford, Conn.

"This is a unique opportunity to interface with the people of Afghanistan and show our support for education," said Army Staff Sgt. Ryan McClaughry, a Civil Affairs noncommissioned officer from Portland, Ore.

Education remains a top priority for Afghanistan. Progress has been gained over the last five years with more to follow including, standardized curriculums, increased opportunities for female teachers, competency tests for educators, and a national testing system to assess learning achievement. As these reforms take shape, more and more young children will attend school, learn, and have an opportunity for a better tomorrow.

## Koreans, PRT provide humanitarian aid

By Army Cpl. Tremeshia Ellis 19th Public Affairs Detachment

#### KAPISA PROVINCE, Af-ghanistan -

- The Republic of Korea Support Group delivered humanitarian aid to Kapisa on June 3 with the help of the Kapisa Provincial government and the Bagram Provincial Reconstruction Team.

The two groups delivered truckloads of food, clothing, shoes, toys, household items, hygiene items and school supplies to a international assistance organization in Mahmud-i-Raqi for distribution to area families in need.

The items distributed were collected during May, which in Korea is traditionally the month of family.

"During the past month, we have reflected on the lives of the local people more than normal," said ROK Army Lt. Col. Giseung Bok, chief of Civil Affairs team. "We think that family and children are very important for the future of this country. We are trying to help the Afghan people and they need a lot of clothes and household items."

Providing necessities for its people also helps support the stabilization of the Afghan government, he added.

After collecting the items, the Republic of Korea Support Group coordinated with the Bagram PRT to make the mission a success.

The PRT agreed to provide logistical support for the mission and contacted Kapisa provincial government officials who designated the distribution point.

"This mission took a lot of coordination between myself, the Republic of Korea officials and Kapisa Governor Abdul-Satar Murad," said Army Capt. Frank Logan, PRT Civil Affairs team leader. "Overall, I think it was a success."

One reason for that success, said Logan, was the organization and advanced planning.

"I think the HCA drop was a good idea to coordinate with an international organization with expertise in distributing these types of items," Logan said. "They are able to reach out into the entire province to get those materials to the people who are most in need."



Photos by Army Cpl. Tremeshia Ellis

Soldiers from the Republic of Korea Support Group hand out toys to Afghan children during a trip to Kapisa on June 3. The Korean soldiers worked together with the Kapisa Provincial government and the Bagram Provincial Reconstruction Team to make the event possible.

Making a difference in the lives of those in need has personal significance for Republic of Korea Army Col. Kim, who helped plan the event.



Republic of Korea Army Lt. Col. Giseung Bok and Kapisa Governor Abdul-Satar Murad have a discussion prior to the start of the event.

He said he saw the mission as a small way to give back to the international community that supported his family and provided aid following the Korean War.

"I remember not even having shoes when I was a child," Kim said while distributing shoes to Afghan children in Mahmud-i-Raqi.

Though Kim worked hard to get where he is today, he is grateful for the help others offered his family and thinks it was important in his country's postwar recovery.

"The international community made a difference then in Korea," he said. "Now, as a member of this community, I hope we can have the same impact in Afghanistan." Murad agreed.

"This is exactly what I'm telling my people," the governor said. "The international community will not be here forever, one day they will walk away. But before they walk away, we should stand on our own feet so that when they walk away, we can walk with them and help other nations."

Korean officials said they plan to conduct similar missions on a monthly basis.

# MOUT training prepares troops for combat

By Army Pfc.
Michael J. Nyeste
19th Public Affairs Detachment
BAGRAM AIRFIELD,

Afghanistan -- The Bagram Military Operations in Urban Terrain site, run by the Anteon Corporation, keeps Coalition forces' urban combat skills sharp every day.

"MOUT is a perishable skill. That's why it's invaluable to have a training site out here like this," said Joung Kim, project manager of the Anteon MOUT site of Bagram.

The purpose of the site is to prepare Coalition forces for assaulting villages and entering and clearing rooms in buildings in a war where many of the battles are being fought in an urban environment.

"These guys are operating in an urban environment. That's why it's so important to train for it out here," Kim said.

"MOUT training is performed in garrison environments, but having this caliber of training in theater is invaluable to the success of village and building clearing missions," said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Robert Taverena, patrol leader with the 455th Expeditionary



Photos by Army Pfc. Michael J. Nyeste

Air Force security forces members begin their assault on a mock village at the Bragram Military Operations in Urban Terrain site.

Security Forces Squadron.

"When you're in this kind of environment, it's important to stay sharp and hone your skills," Taverena said.

Coalition forces polish their skills by entering buildings that have enemy dummies that pop around corners and other hiding spots.

The building's walls are constantly rearranged so Coalition

forces can't memorize the layout of the building due to the constant change, Kim said.

When service members use the facilities, they take their training seriously. But with the adrenaline pumping and speakers simulating weapons firing and explosions, there is also an element of fun, said Air Force Airman 1st Class Erika Asbury, 455th ESFS. "It's dark in there, and you don't know where you're going," said Asbury. "It's fast paced, and your heart is racing the whole time."

Any unit from any branch or nation who wants to hone their skills and have some fun is encouraged to schedule a day and time to use the Bagram MOUT training site by calling 318-231-9029.



Air Force Staff Sgt. Gloria Banks moves to clear the balcony of enemy forces.



Air Force security forces personnel move back to their vehicles after successfully clearing a mock village at the Bagram Military Operations in Urban Terrain site.

